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Cone W copy number of expressed panE genes over the level expressed in pantothenic acid-producing microorganisms lacking said expression cassette.

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C2 40. (Amended) The process of claim 29, wherein said microorganism over-expresses at least one protein selected from the group consisting of: the protein having ketopantoate reductase activity encoded by the panE gene of *Escherichia coli*; the protein encoded by the ilvC gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum*; and the protein having ketopantoate reductase activity encoded by the YHR063c reading frame of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

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C3 43. (Amended) The process of claim 41, wherein said microorganism is transformed with a plasmid vector comprising at least one gene of the metabolic path of pantothenic acid formation selected from the group consisting of: ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase; aspartate 1-decarboxylase and pantothenate synthase.

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## II. REMARKS

### PRELIMINARY REMARKS

A marked-up version of the amendment to the claims is attached hereto as an appendix.

Enclosed herewith is a supplemental declaration, duly executed by the named inventors. The applicants respectfully request that the objection to the defective oath/declaration now be withdrawn.

Support for the amendment to claim 35 is found in the specification at page 3, lines 3-31; page 24, lines 23-25; page 26, lines 8 and 9, page 30, lines 19-22; and original claim 5. Support for the amendment to claim 36 is found in the specification at page 3, lines 3-31; page 24, lines 23-25; and original claim 6. Support for the amendment to claim 40 is found in the specification at page 40, lines 1-16 and Table 6. Support for the amendment is found in original claims 14-16.